

While Samantha always wants her students to do their best and earn good grades, she strives for them to walk out of her classroom knowing how to think and respond to circumstances with prudence. Since opening her advanced placement classes to all students 2 years ago, her students have produced the highest AP 2D studio art scores in the school district. Her goal is to prepare her students for college and careers through gaining experience and developing skills above and beyond their peers.

I am pleased to recognize Samantha for her hard work. I extend to her my warmest regards, and I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO RYAN MITCHELL

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Ryan Mitchell, the Hamilton County Teacher of the Year from Hamilton County High School in Jasper, FL.

Ryan is an instructional coach at Hamilton County High School and has worked with Hamilton County Schools since 2018. He assists middle school and high school teachers with instructional modeling, lessons and planning, and demonstrating various methods of teaching. He also monitors students' progress from within the schools.

Ryan believes he would not have received this award if not for the support of his family and friends. He is grateful for the countless relationships he has developed in Hamilton County and throughout Florida. It is these relationships that have made him the teacher he is today.

Ryan is also very thankful for his students and considers it an honor to be their teacher. Each day, he looks forward to teaching his students, knowing they are the next generation of future leaders. Ryan makes sure he is available to answer all of his student's questions, and he hopes they learn half as much from him as he learns from them.

I offer my sincere gratitude to Ryan for his work to help students. I look forward to hearing of his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TRAVIS O'STEEN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize Travis O'Steen, the Dixie County Teacher of the Year at Dixie County High School in Cross City, FL.

Travis currently teaches U.S. history at Dixie County High School. Travis earned his bachelor's degree in religion and history from William Carey University. After completing his world travels, he felt he could bring his studies and global experience as a teacher to his students. Previously, he taught finance, English, and the performing arts for high school students.

Travis has always been interested in learning why people believe in what

they do. This has led him to travel the world to research history, cultures, and archaeology. After returning home, he found that these teaching experiences enhanced his own classroom instruction. This enhanced knowledge has enabled him to help his students to better understand and develop a passion for American and world history.

I express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Travis for his devotion to helping his students to succeed. I look forward to hearing of his continued success in his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO ROB PASCHALL

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Rob Paschall, the Orange County Teacher of the Year at West Creek Elementary School in Orlando, FL.

Rob has been an educator for 27 years and currently teaches fifth grade at West Creek Elementary School. In the past year, more than 80 percent of Rob's students demonstrated learning gains, one of many measurable changes credited to his teaching practices. Outside of the classroom, Rob regularly sponsors the school safety patrols, serves as a teacher liaison for the PTA, and works closely with the Florida Department of Education's Writing RangeFinder Committee.

Throughout his educational career, Rob looks to find at least one success each day worth celebrating. He believes in teaching intentionally and works to understand his student's unique learning styles. Rob develops lesson plans designed to meet the needs of each student, highlighting their strengths and finding areas in need of improvement.

Colleagues describe Rob as a humble teacher that enjoys educating younger generations. He strives to help his students improve each day and attributes their growth and success to their dedication and hard work.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Rob for his strong commitment to his students. I look forward to hearing of his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LORI PRICE

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Lori Price, the St. Johns County Teacher of the Year from the Webster School in St. Augustine, FL.

Lori teaches first grade at the Webster School and believes in giving her students the opportunity to succeed no matter their circumstances. She is honored to be the person who pushes her students to go above and beyond what is expected of them.

A veteran teacher of more than 30 years, Lori has a positive approach to teaching math. She prompts her students to think like mathematicians so they can develop confidence in their ability to solve problems.

Lori has faith in her students and considers it her job as an educator to help them reach their potential. She

sets high expectations in the classroom to allow students to see challenges as opportunities. She loves to create a space in which children can confidently undertake challenges.

In addition to organizing the St. Johns County Math Conference and presenting at various mathematics conferences, Lori also offers monthly professional development meetings for her fellow math teachers. She is passionate about investing in her colleagues and hopes her work makes an impact on students in her district and beyond.

I convey my best wishes to Lori for her dedication to her students. I look forward to hearing of her continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL RICHARDSON

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Paul Richardson, the Bay County Teacher of the Year at Tom P. Haney Technical Center in Callaway, FL.

Paul is an instructor in welding technology and teaches the foundational program at Tom P. Haney Technical Center. His class covers a broad base of knowledge and skills such as management, environmental issues, and safety. Paul's goal is to prepare students for employment in the welding industry. He also instructs advanced welding technology for students who have demonstrated a mastery of his foundational program.

Paul is the first instructor at Tom P. Haney Technical Center to receive this award. It is also the first time Bay County has named a technical school teacher "Teacher of the Year." Paul credited his colleagues for this achievement, noting their combined work helps students with their education. He was thankful to see that the importance of technical education was recognized.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Paul for his dedication to his students, and I look forward to hearing of his continued good work in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO VANESSA VALLE

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to honor Vanessa Valle, the Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year at Hialeah Gardens High School in Hialeah Gardens, FL.

While in high school, one of Vanessa's teachers inspired her to become a teacher. Since then, she has dedicated her life to educate and transform the lives of students, similar to how hers was changed.

Vanessa considers her job to be more than just teaching and imparting knowledge onto her students. She also seeks to bring empathy to the classroom and commits to helping turn their dreams into reality. Vanessa's colleagues note she is always willing to go the extra mile to help not only her students, but also her fellow teachers.